

DEF. DOC. #2460

Exh. No.

Translated by  
Defense Language Branch

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

UNITED STATES AMERICA et al

-vs-

ARAKI Sadao et al

SWORN DEPOSITION (Translation)

Deponent: YAGASAKI, Setsuzo

Having first duly sworn an oath as on attached sheet  
and in accordance with the procedure followed in my country  
I hereby depose as follows.

I. I am YAGASAKI, Setsuzo. I am an ex-major general  
and up to the time of the end of the War, I was serving  
in the defense of the Tokyo area. At present I live at  
Haruki, Togo-Mura, Aichi-Gun, Aichi Prefecture, and am  
engaged in farming.

II. From August 1931, when Gen. ARAKI was appointed Chief of the General Affairs Department of the Inspectorate-General of Military Training, to the time he left the above post to become War Minister, I served as adjutant captain in the Inspectorate-General. From January 1934 to March 1936, when his excellency entered the reserves, I served (as major) under the general as adjutant to the Military Councillor. Again from April 1932 to January 1934 I served under the general, who was then War Minister, as a member of the Personnel Bureau, of the War Ministry.

III. From August, 1930 to April, 1932 I served as adjutant to Chief of the General Affairs Department of the Inspectorate-General, whose post was occupied during the above period successively by Gen. HAYASHI, ARAKI and KAWASHIMA. The duty of the Chief of the General Affairs Department was to assist the Inspector-General and to take charge of all affairs coming under the jurisdiction of the Inspectorate-General. Therefore it was an extremely busy post. For instance, he often had to go on trips to inspect maneuvers, army schools and various other training institutions all over the country. In addition to this, the Chief of the General Affairs Department concurrently held the post of Chairman of the Permanent

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Examination Committee for Army Cadets and as such had to discharge the extremely exacting duties concerning the examination of the junior and senior students of various army schools. Therefore he did not attend any conferences held by the War Ministry, the General Staff, etc., except in cases where the subject matter concerned military education.

General ARAKI assumed the post of Chief of the General Affairs Department of the Inspectorate-General on 15 August, 1931. Although he remained in this post but for less than four months, by the time he was promoted to War Minister he had almost finished his inspection tour, having begun his visits to schools and maneuvers under his jurisdiction at a very early period of his term of office. Those schools, including the Military Academy, numbered more than ten and were not all situated in Tokyo, but dotted all over the country as far as Kyushu. Inasmuch as the general made detailed inspections, his trips required more than the usual time. For instance, on the occasion of his visit to the Cavalry School in Chiba, which was only about a three hours ride from Tokyo, he spent the previous night

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at a place near the school, and, after hearing detailed explanations from the responsible party made his inspection on the following day. Therefore it was already in the middle of October when he finished his visits in the Tokyo area.

Late in October he made visits to schools of the outlying localities. At about the same time he made a trip of two weeks in order to prepare and carry out special communication maneuvers. On finishing this, he went to Kumamoto to assist at the special grand maneuvers held there. As soon as he returned to Tokyo, he was appointed War Minister. A greater part of his time was thus spent outside of Tokyo. Therefore the Manchurian Incident which broke out at that time was quite a news to him and of which he first learned, like other people, from the newspapers.

IV. At the time of the October Incident Gen. ARAKI and I were busy making preparations for a trip to Kumamoto to inspect the Instructors' School there. At about 4 p.m., however, when the general made a courtesy call to the War Minister's official residence, he was



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told by War Minister MINAMI and Gen. KANAYA, Chief of the General Staff, about the occurrence, and was asked to go to quell the incident. Thereupon the general went to the War Ministry and stayed there until late at night finally succeeding in smoothing away the situation. He came back home at dawn, and so the scheduled trip was postponed. On that occasion he told me that the substance of the matter proved to be that some of the younger officers in the General Staff who were irritated at the corrupt state of the political world had made a common plan to carry out a reform and that although he finally succeeded in dissuading them from the plan, the situation was very difficult inasmuch as the said officers were all men of naive character.

V. On the morning of 13 December, as I remember, he phoned me that he was going to visit Mr. INUKAI's. Thereupon I accompanied him. After a few minutes' talk with Mr. INUKAI, he went to the official residence of the War Minister to talk with the War Minister, the Chief of the General Staff and the Inspector-General of Military Education. After that he went again to Mr. INUKAI's. In the afternoon, he was appointed War Minister in a

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ceremony of installation by His Majesty. It happened so suddenly that we were very busy with various arrangements and liaison services. I did not continue to attend him after he became War Minister.

VI. In April, 1932, I managed personnel matters as a member of the Personnel Affairs Bureau of the War Ministry. The Minister believed, in consideration of various incidents which had frequently happened by that time and of the aggravation of the internal condition of the country, that it was no doubt a matter of real necessity to select men of character as the commanders of armed forces in order to introduce such a reform into the Japanese army that it would become upright in its existence--an army excellent in its high moral virtues. So the General, unlike his predecessors who used to approve personnel recommendations as they were submitted from the Personnel Affairs Bureau regarding commanders of the lower classes ordered his staff to be careful in the selection of the lower officers, such as the company commanders, etc..

As he was very careful about the problem, those who were of excellent character became to be appointed commanders.

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VII. For two years from January, 1934, I was adjutant to the General, who then was a military councillor. At that time, the fact that the plans which he had planned formerly for national policy were not put into practice either by the Government or the Army, made him anxious constantly. He was quite different in his opinion from other men of importance in the Government at the time. The Military Council was a peacetime pool for reserving army commanders for war-time. The members had no duty nor business of special importance, and there was no formal meeting during the period the General held the post. The details of the meeting, even when it was an informal session, were not disclosed to newspaper-men.

VIII. The General was very earnest in instructing young officers. But he severely scolded and warned any young officer who broke the law of justice and moral obligations. The General made it his principle to welcome everyone who came to him and not to pursue those who leave him. He frankly talked about his beliefs with everyone who visited him to hear his opinion. He used to say: "Japan is no closed country now. Japan has intercourse with the world. So our first duty is to

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knew the conditions of the world and to refine our personality; be Broadminded and do not be narrow".

IV. At the time the so-called 2-26 Incident broke-out out, he went to the Imperial Palace to see the Emperor, as soon as he was informed by the KEMPEI-TAI of the occurrence. On our ride to the Palace, he said to me as follows: "If I had taken more effective steps in the instruction of the young officers, they would not have been misled by the "civilians" (meaning by this expression the authors of the Incident other than soldiers in active service). It is a matter for deep regret."; and "The authors of the Incident are usurpers of the Imperial prerogative of military command. They are the ruin of our Imperial army". Those words impressed me so deeply that I still remember them quite distinctly.

X. In speaking of the national character of the various peoples of the world, he used to refer in laudatory terms to the sobriety and refinement of the Englishmen, the frontier spirit and practical enterprise of the Americans, the broad and good heart of the Russians, the serenity and generosity of the Chinese, the patriotism



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of the Frenchmen, the organizing capacity and diligence of the Germans. Above all ~~he~~ praised the Swede for their warm and pure heart which kept their country free from thrives. He taught us that if we were to be citizens of the world, we had to adopt these merits of other peoples. At the same time, he was always desirous to have Japan become a country with morality even ~~high~~ higher than that of Sweden.

On this 8th day of Sept., 1947

At \_\_\_\_\_

DEPONENT YAGASAKI, Setsuzo (seal)

I hereby certify that the above statement was sworn by the Deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this witness.

On the same date

At \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: (signed) HASUOKA, Komei (seal)

OATH

In accordance with my conscience I swear to tell the whole truth withholding nothing and adding nothing.

/s/ YAGASAKI, Setsuzo (seal)

極東國際軍事裁判所

亞米利加合衆國 其他

對

荒木貞夫 其他

宣誓供述者

供述者 矢ヶ崎 節 三

自分僞我國軍行ハルル方式ニ從ヒ先ヅ別紙ノ通り宣誓ヲ爲シタル上  
次ノ如ク供述致シマス

一、私は矢ヶ崎節三であります。元陸軍少將で終戦まで東京附近守備の勤務に服して居りました。今愛知縣愛知郡東郷村大字春木に住む農業に従事して居ります。

二、私は昭和六年八月荒木大將が教育總監部本部長御就任の時から陸軍大臣親任の爲本部長御離任まで教育總監部大尉副官として又少佐時代に昭和九年一月から昭和十一年三月閣下豫備役編入まで軍事參議官副官として閣下の御側に居りました。又昭和七年四月より九年一月まで陸軍省人事局課員として荒木大臣の下に勤務しました。

三、私は昭和五年八月から昭和七年四月迄林、荒木、川島の三代の本部長に副官として歴任しました。本部長は教育總監の補佐役であつて總監部一切の業務を管掌し従つて極めて多忙で常に管下諸學校の巡視各種演習全國軍隊教育練成視察の爲出張多く刻へ將校生徒試驗常置委員長として陸軍諸學生並生徒の召募に關する繁雜なる職務も兼ねて居られ軍隊の教育に關する事以外は陸軍省參謀本部等の軍政統帥關係の會議には出席する事はありませんでした。

荒木大將は昭和六年八月十五日教育總監部本部長として着任僅か四ヶ月足らずの短い在勤で着任早々閣下の各學校巡視及演習視察に従事されて陸軍大臣に御轉任までに一通りの巡視が漸く終つた位でありました。閣下の學校

は陸軍士官學校を始め十以上で東京以外九州地方まで散在して居りました。そして大將は極めて詳細に状況を視察せられましたので通常の場合より多くの時間を要しました。例へば千葉の騎兵學校の様に自動車で三時間位の出張の際にも前夜附近に宿泊せられ主務者から詳細の状況を聴取研究の後視察されるといふ状況でありました。それで十月半迄に東京附近の大部が漸く終つた位でした。

十月下旬には地方の學校に出かけられ其間特別通信演習の準備計畫實施の爲め二週間程の出張があり之れが終られると熊本地方で行はれた特別大演習の爲出張御歸京後間もなく大臣御就任といふ有様で東京に居られな

#### 四

十月事件の時は丁度當日熊本教導學校視察に出發の豫定で準備を整へて居りました。が午後四時頃陸軍大臣官邸に出張の挨拶に行かれた所南陸軍大臣と金谷參謀總長から御話があつて突然事件の報を依頼せられ同夜遅くまで陸軍省におかれ漸く之れを收めて夜明けに御歸宅になりましたので出張を延ばしたのでありました。其時參謀本部の若い連中が政治の腐敗を憤激して革正をするのだと寄り寄り集つた事が判つたので説得したが純眞な氣持の人々だけに非常に困らせられたと述懐して居られました。



五十二月十三日午前と思ひますが突然電話がかゝつて今から大養氏の所に行くのだからといふのでお伴をして参りました暫らく話をされてから引さり陸軍大臣官邸に行つて大臣、参謀總長、教育總監と御會談になり再び大養氏の宅に参り午後大臣親任式がありました突然の事なので申送りや引繼中で相當混雜致しました私は大府が大臣なられたので夫れ以來側近に居りませんでした。

六昭和七年四月陸軍省人事局課員として尋ら人事を取扱ひましたが大臣は夫れ迄類々としてあつた種々な事件及世相の悪化を顧られて肅軍をして道徳的存在として道義の高い秀でた軍隊とするには隊長に人格者を選ぶことが議論外の實際問題だとして従来は下級隊長は人事局案をそのまゝ決裁せらるゝのが通例でしたか大將は下級の中隊長の選定に注意せよとて細心の關心を拂はれ人格の優れた者が隊長に任ぜられる様になりました七昭和九年一月より二ヶ年間大將の軍令官時代其副官を達しましたか此時は豫て考へてゐた國家の樹立が政府でも軍でも行はないので常に心配されて居り大將の意見は當時の同僚に於つた人の意見と異つて居りました、軍事参議官は開戦の場合の軍司令官要員の溜りで何等重要な職務も仕事もなく荒木大將の軍事参議官時代には正式の参議官會議は一度もありませんでした、又軍事参議官會議は正式でない場合でも其内容は新聞記者等に發表される事はありませんでした

大將は青年將校の指導には熱心でしたが苟も大義名分に背く時には強く叱られ諒されませんでした大將は元來来るものは拒まざるものは追はずと云ふ流儀でかりにも閣下を諒ね御話を承りに来る者に對しては何人たるを問はず胸襟を開いて御信念を語らるゝを常としました。そして話をさるゝ事は今は鎖國の日本ではない、世界と交際する日本であるから先づ

世界の有様を承知する事と同時に人格を磨き心を大きく持つて片寄つてはいけなといふ事でした。

九二。二六時件勃發の朝、事件の事を憲兵隊より知らされて直ぐ天機奉伺の爲參内せられます時自動車の中で『今少しく遺憾的には等青年將校の指導に當つてゐたならば地方人（現役軍人以外の事件關係者）に誤まられる様な事はなかつたのに残念な事をした』又『斯の如き事件關係者の如きは陛下の軍隊を私兵化するもので皇軍を害するものである』とつくづく述懐せられた事を今も私の耳にまさきと響つております。

大講演其他世界の民情を語る、時には世界人のよき所とて英國民の重厚と洗練米國民の氣魄と現實的實行性、大體西亞人の雄大と善良、支那人の悠揚と度量、佛國人の愛國的氣概、獨逸人の組織と勵勉を示され就中瑞典の民情の淳厚尙厭にして益人なき有様を賞揚せられ新に世界人と伍するには各々之等の長所を學べと教へられると共に瑞典以上の道義國家を實現させたいと心から念願して居られました。

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昭和二十二年（一九四七年）九月八日於東京

供述者 矢ヶ崎 節三

右ハ當立會人ノ面前ニテ宣誓シ且ツ署名捺印シタルコトヲ證明シマス

同日於

立會人 遠岡 高明



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